

At page 16, line 5, after "each" insert --die--.

At page 16, line 10, after "through" (first occurrence) insert --air passage--.

At page 16, line 11, change "respectifely" to --respectively--.

At page 17, line 11, change "VA" to --EVA--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows:

1. (Amended) A segmented die assembly, comprising:

(a) a plurality of manifold segments, each manifold segment having a polymer flow passage and an air flow passage formed therein; [the] said manifold segments being interconnected in side-by-side relationship wherein [the] said air passages and polymer passages are in fluid communication, respectively;

(b) a die module [comprising a die body] mounted on each manifold segment, said die module comprising a die body [and] having a polymer flow passage and an air flow passage in fluid communication with [the] said polymer flow passage and said air flow passage of its associated manifold segment, respectively; and a die tip or nozzle mounted on [the] said die body and having a polymer flow passage in fluid communication with [the] said polymer flow passage of its associated die body for receiving the polymer melt and discharging a filament or filaments therefrom;

A1 (c) means for delivering a polymer melt to at least one manifold segment whereby the melt is distributed through [the] said other interconnected manifold segments and flows through each die module discharging as a filament or filaments from each die tip or nozzle; and

(d) means for delivering air to at least one manifold segment whereby air is distributed in [the] said interconnected manifold segments and flows through each die module discharging through [the] said die tip or nozzle.

Claim 2, line 1, change "the" to --said-- in the second occurrence.

Claim 3, line 1, change "the" to --said-- in the second occurrence.

4. (Amended) The die assembly of Claim 1 wherein [the] said die tip on each die module is air assisted having air passages formed therein, said air passages of [the] said die tip being in fluid communication with said air flow passages of [the] said die body on which it is mounted.

A2 5. (Amended) The die assembly of Claim 1 wherein each die module has an air actuated valve mounted therein to open and close [the] said polymer flow passage therein and each manifold segment having instrument air flow passages formed therein for delivering air to and from [the] said air actuated valve, said assembly

A2 further comprising [conrol] control means for selectively delivering air to and from [the] said instrument air passages of [the] said manifold segment.

Claim 6, line 1, change "the" to --said--.

Claim 7, line 1, change "the" to --said--.

8. (Amended) The die assembly of Claim 1 wherein each manifold segment and [the] said die module mounted thereon is from 0.25 to 1.5 inches in width.

A3 9. (Amended) The die assembly of Claim 1 wherein each manifold segment includes electric heaters for heating [the] said polymer and [the] said air and wherein [the] said air flow passage of a particular manifold segment is in fluid communication with [the] said air passages of [the] said other manifold segments whereby air flows through each manifold segment before flowing to [the] said die module mounted on [the] said particular manifold segment.

10. (Amended) A meltblowing die comprising:

(a) a manifold with at least two manifold segments, each segment having a polymer flow passage and an air flow passage, [the] said polymer flow passages and air flow passages being interconnected, respectively;

(b) a die module secured to each manifold segment, each die module having a polymer flow passage which registers with its associated manifold segment polymer flow passage, an air flow passage which registers with its associated manifold segment air flow passage, a die tip or nozzle for discharging polymer as a filament or filaments, and an air flow discharge for delivering air [to each side of the] onto said filament or filaments;

(c) means for delivering a polymer melt to at least one of [the] said manifold segments whereby [the] said melt flows through [the] said interconnected polymer flow passages of each manifold segment and is delivered to [the] said associated die modules; and

A3 (d) means for delivering air to at least one of [the] said interconnected manifold segments whereby [the] said air flows through each manifold segment and is delivered to [the] said associated die modules.

11. (Amended) The meltblowing die of Claim 10 further comprising valve means for selectively controlling the flow of polymer melt through each die module independently.

sub B1 12. (Amended) A segmented die assembly comprising a plurality of separate air-assisted die units interconnected in side-by-side relationship, each die unit comprising:

sub B1
cont. a) a manifold segment having formed therein (i) an air flow passage, (ii) a polymer flow passage, and (iii) an instrument air flow passage;

A3 b) a die module having a die body [detachably] detachably mounted on [the] said manifold segment, and an air-assisted die tip or nozzle mounted on [the] said die body, said die body having formed therein (i) an air flow passage, (ii) a polymer flow passage and (iii) instrument air flow passage which, respectively, are in fluid communication with [the] said air flow passage, said polymer flow passage, and said instrument air flow passage of [the] said manifold segment, said die body further having an air-actuated valve mounted therein for opening and closing [the] said polymer flow passage thereof, which is in fluid communication with [the] said instrument air flow passage thereof;

said die tip having (i) an air flow passage and (ii) a polymer flow passage which, respectively, are in fluid communication with [the] said air flow passage and said polymer flow passage of said die body; and

(c) means for selectively delivering air to and from [the] said instrument air flow passages of [the] said manifold segment for actuating [the] said air-actuated valve.

Claim 13, line 1, change "the" to --said--.